Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 02911 050519Z

11
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 /076 W
---------- 078838
R 041551Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2406
INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN UNN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
USUN NEW YORK 1020

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 2911

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, RH, SF
SUBJECT: SAP PULLING OUT OF RHODESIA

REFERENCE: PRETORIA 2891 (NOTAL)

1. SA PRESS REPORTED OVER WEEKEND THAT, UNDER PERSISTENT QUESTIONING FROM GOVERNMENT BACKBENCHERS, RHODESIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE P.K. VAN DER BYL TOLD PARLIAMENT IN SALISBURY AUGUST 1 THAT ALL SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE (SAP) PERSONNEL WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM RHODESIA "SOON". THIS WAS CONFIRMED LATER IN DAY BY SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTER OF POLICE J.T. KRUGER. ON AUGUST 2, ACTING SA COMMISSIONER OF POLICE GENERAL G.L. PRINSLOO TOLD PRESS WITHDRAWAL OF REMAINING 200 POLICEMEN PROBABLY WILL BE COMPLETED BY END OF AUGUST.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRETOR 02911 050519Z

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

2. IN HIS AUGUST 1 PRESS STATEMENT MINISTER KRUGER SAID NECESSITY OF SAP PRESENCE FOR PAST EITHT YEARS NOW HAD DIMINISHED BECAUSE STRUGGLE IN RHODESIA HAD BECOME "INTERNAL" ONE. HE ADDED THAT SAG THEREFORE "FELT THAT THEIR PRESENCE SHOULD NOT BECOME A DISTURBING FACTOR IN THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS." SAG JUSTIFI-CATION FOR PRESENCE OF PARA-MILITARY POLICE HAS BEEN THAT THEY WERE IN RHODESIA TO HELP STOP GUERRILLAS WHO WERE ATTEMPTING TO TRANSIT RHODESIA INTO SOUTH AFRICA AS ACTUAL TARGET.

3. SAG HAS BEEN ANXIOUS TO KEEP FINAL REMOVAL OF SAP UNITS AS LOW-KEYED AS POSSIBLE (PARA 3, REFTEL). IN INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR, AUGUST 3, MINISTER KRUGER SAID RHODESIANS HAD KNOWN FOR SOME TIME ABOUT PLANNED SAP WITHDRAWAL AND THAT VAN DER BYL ANNOUNCEMENT, THEREFORE, TOOK SAG COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE. KRUGER WAS UNCERTAIN WHY VAN DER BYL MADE ANNOUNCEMENT BUT NOTED THAT HE HAD APPARENTLY BEEN UNDER CONSIDERABLE PARLIAMENTARY PRESSURE.

4. PUBLIC CONFIRMATION OF KJTHDRAWAL COMES IN WAKE OF INCREASING RIGHT-WING CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT POLICY TOWARDS RHODESIA. APPARENT FALTERING SUPPORT OF SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WAS ONE MAJOR CAMPAIGN POINT OF ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE HERSTIGTE NATIONALE PARTY, WHICH SCORED SIGNIFICANT GAINS DURING SEVERAL RECENT BY-ELECTIONS. DISSATISFACTION ALSO EXISTS WITHIN RULING NATIONAL PARTY, AS EVIDENCE BY STATEMENTS OF FORMER CABINET MINISTER BEN SCHOEMAN. IN RECENT ADDRESS TO CONSTITUENTS UNITED PARTY CONSERVATIVE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT JOHN WILEY ECHOED SCHOEMAN'S SENTIMENTS ABOUT NOT "LEAVING RHODESIA IN THE THE LURCH".

5. COMMENT: SMITH MAY HAVE ORCHESTRATED ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL IN HOPE THAT PUBLIC PRESSURE IN SOUTH AFRICA WOULD INFLUENCE SAG. THIS WOULD NOT BE FIRST TIME SUCH TACTIC FOLLOWED BY SMITH. WHILE REMAINING SAP FORCES HAD BEEN PULLED BACK FROM OPERATIONAL FRONT, MAKING THEM MILITARILY INSIGNIFICANT, CONTINUED PHYSICAL PRESENCE OBVIOUSLY PSYCHOLOGICALLY IMPORTANT TO RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT. SAP PULL-OUT MAY WELL RESULT IN CRIES OF "SELL OUT" FROM RIGHT WING OF SOUTH AFRICA. GIVEN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER'S EARNEST DESIRE TO REACH ACCORD WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

BLACK AFRICA, CONTINUED LOYAL SUPPORT MAJORITY OF NP MEMBERS GIVE THE PARTY LEADERSHIP, AND FEAR OF POSSIBLY GETTING SUCKED INTO MAELSTROM OF WIDENING WAR OUTSIDE ITS OWN BORDERS, SAG PROBABLY WILL WEATHER FLURRIES OF CRITICISM AND STICK TO COURSE OF DISENGAGEMENT.
BOWDLER

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRETOR02911
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750269-0405
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750885/aaaacwwr.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PRETORIA 2891
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAP PULLING OUT OF RHODESIA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, RH, SF, (VAN DER BLY, P K), (KRUGER, J T)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006